



Oneida County Will Join EAB Quarantine List

Release Date: 10/7/14

Contact: Donna Gilson, 608-224-5130

donna.gilson@wi.gov

Jim Dick, Communications Director, 608-224-5020

jim.dick@wi.gov

MADISON – Oneida County will be quarantined following confirmation of emerald ash borer in the city of Rhineland.

“It’s disappointing, but not surprising, when EAB shows up in an entirely new area like this,” said Brian Kuhn, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry in the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. “EAB hitchhikes on firewood and other ash wood very easily, and can end up many miles from any previously known infestation. It’s hard to detect at low levels, so it’s generally three or four years before we find an infestation after it first begins.”

The Oneida County detection was on public property, in one of the purple traps set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services.

A portion of the Lac du Flambeau Tribe’s reservation lies within the boundaries of Oneida County. The State of Wisconsin and the federal government are consulting with the tribe about the quarantine within the reservation boundaries. The tribe may institute a quarantine on its property at its own discretion. A decision is expected in the near future.

Quarantines prohibit ash wood products and hardwood firewood from being moved to areas that are not quarantined. For businesses handling wood products that could carry EAB, this means that they must work with DATCP to assure that their products are pest-free before shipping to non-quarantine counties. For private citizens, a quarantine means that neither residents nor tourists may take firewood from these counties to non-quarantine counties.

“While it is legal to move firewood within the quarantined counties, we strongly discourage it,” Kuhn said. “The vast majority of EAB infestations have resulted from the movement of firewood. EAB is one of a number of forest pests and diseases that can easily and invisibly move from one location to another under the bark of firewood. If we could reduce the long distance movement of firewood we would reduce the spread of many invasive forest pests, not just EAB.”

DATCP recommends that property owners who have ash trees in quarantine counties:

- Keep a close watch for possible signs of EAB infestation: Thinning canopy, D-shaped holes in the bark, cracked bark, branches sprouting low on the trunk, and woodpeckers pulling at bark.
- Consider preventive treatments if your property is within 15 miles of a known infestation.
- Consider planting different species of trees that are not susceptible to EAB.
- Call a professional arborist, and visit emeraldashborer.wi.gov for detailed information.

The quarantine will be put in place temporarily by a Wisconsin emergency rule, until the U.S. Department of Agriculture completes the process to enact a federal quarantine.

Emerald ash borer is native to China and probably entered the United States on packing material, showing up first in Michigan in 2002. It was first found in Wisconsin in 2008 in Ozaukee County. Other quarantined Wisconsin counties are Adams, Brown, Buffalo, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Door, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Monroe, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine,

EAB – ADD ONE

Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago.

EAB adults lay eggs on the bark of ash trees in mid- to late summer. When the eggs hatch a week or two later, the larvae burrow under the bark for the winter and feed, forming the characteristic S-shaped tunnels and destroying the tree's ability to take up nutrients and water. In summer, the adults emerge through D-shaped holes in the bark.

The Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program includes DATCP; DNR; UW-Madison; UW-Extension; USDA Forest Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. ###

For more DATCP news, find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).